CHILAKO RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Purpose Statement

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Approved by:

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Date: March 26/03

Chilako River Ecological Reserve
Purpose Statement

The Chilako River Ecological Reserve is located 54 km south of Vanderhoof, 2 km north of the Chilako River. The ecological reserve is 64 ha in size, and protects the most southerly known stand of tamarack trees in British Columbia.

The ecological reserve lies on the gently rolling terrain of the Nechako Plateau and has little variation in relief. A minor watercourse through the ecological reserve drains wetlands to the east.

The major feature of this ecological reserve is a stand of vigorous tamarack trees located well to the south of the usual range of this species in the Boreal White and Black Spruce Zone of the Peace River – Fort Nelson – Liard area. Black spruce is also near the southern limit of its range here. The ecological reserve is largely forested, but contains small, scattered sedge meadows.

Three forest communities are included: swampy sites dominated by tamarack, mixed black spruce/tamarack stands, and spruce/lodgepole pine forests on drier sites.

Primary Role
The primary role of Chilako River Ecological Reserve is to preserve the most southerly known stand of tamarack trees in British Columbia.

Known Management Issues	Response
Boundary confusion	A new mapped boundary of the ecological reserve is being prepared which will resolve confusion.
Mountain pine beetle	No action will be taken in the ecological reserve; extensive salvage in adjacent and surrounding forests.
Adjacent cutblocks	Monitor for blowdown from adjacent logging activity.
Culverts outside ecological reserve	Poor culvert practices noted – potential effect on drainage which will impact the wetlands. Impacts to be monitored.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection — Contributes minimally to the representation of the Nazko Upland Ecosection (10.91%); the ecological reserve contributes only 0.03% of the overall provincial protection of this ecosection.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant — Contributes minimally to the representation of the SBS mc3 (7.14%); the ecological reserve contributes only 0.32% of overall provincial protection of this variant. It is however, only 1 of 3 protected areas contributing to the representation of this variant.

Special Feature	X	The most southerly known stand of tamarack trees in British Columbia
Rare/Endangered Values		unknown
Scientific/Research Opportunities	X	Tree species at the outer limits of their range; genetic diversity

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

	X	Nature appreciation opportunities

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities	X	Species at the edge of their range

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships	X	Ecological Reserve Warden (Ivan Cartwright appointed 1991)
Vulnerability		The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 2 risk factors (the shape and the size of the ecological reserve) for the ecological reserve and rated them as highly significant. Three stressors/threats were identified for the ecological reserve: road construction was rated as medium significance; roadways and forest harvesting activity were rated with low significance.
Relationship to Other Strategies		

Area: 64 hectares

Date of establishment: December 15, 1977